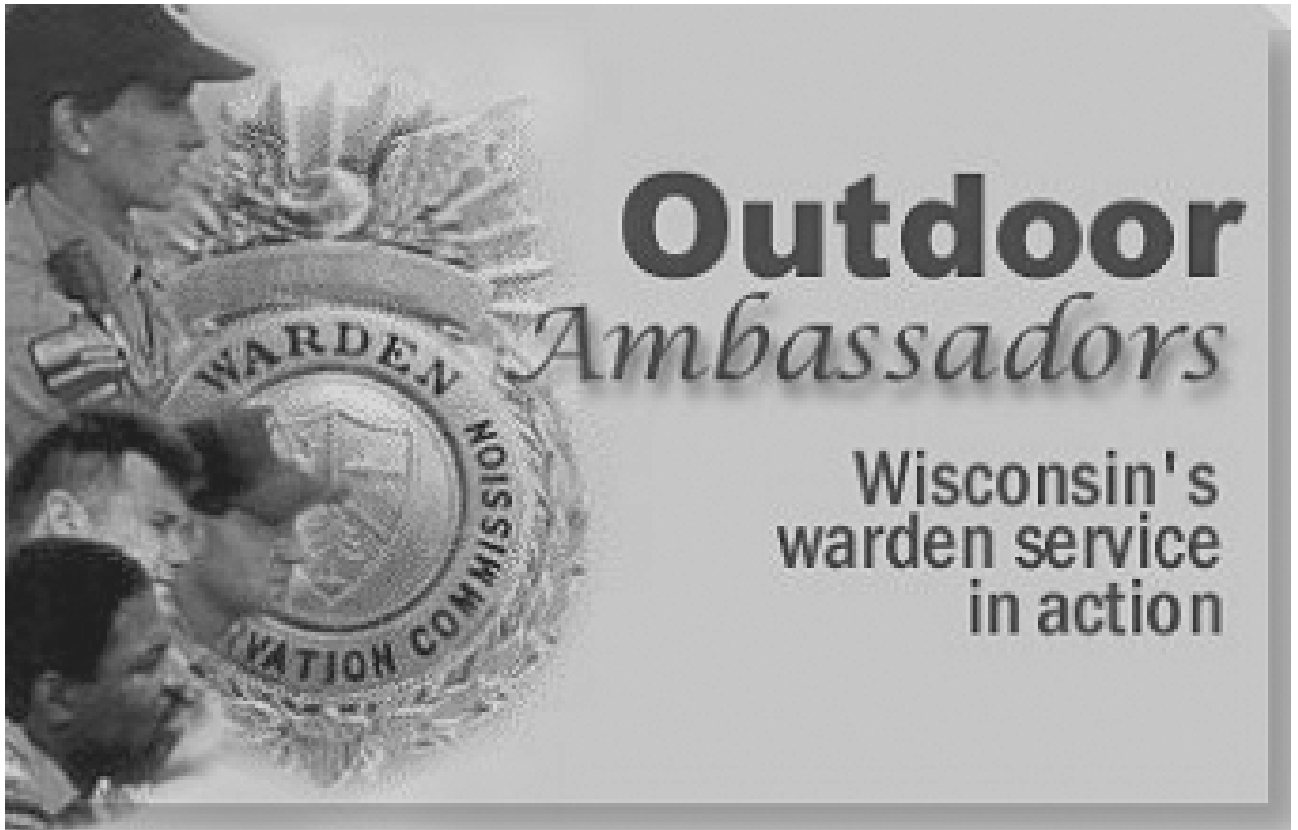


DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES BUREAU OF LAW ENFORCEMENT 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

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*Dedicated to Protecting Wisconsin
Citizens and Resources*



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"The conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem. Unless we solve that problem it will avail us little to solve all others."

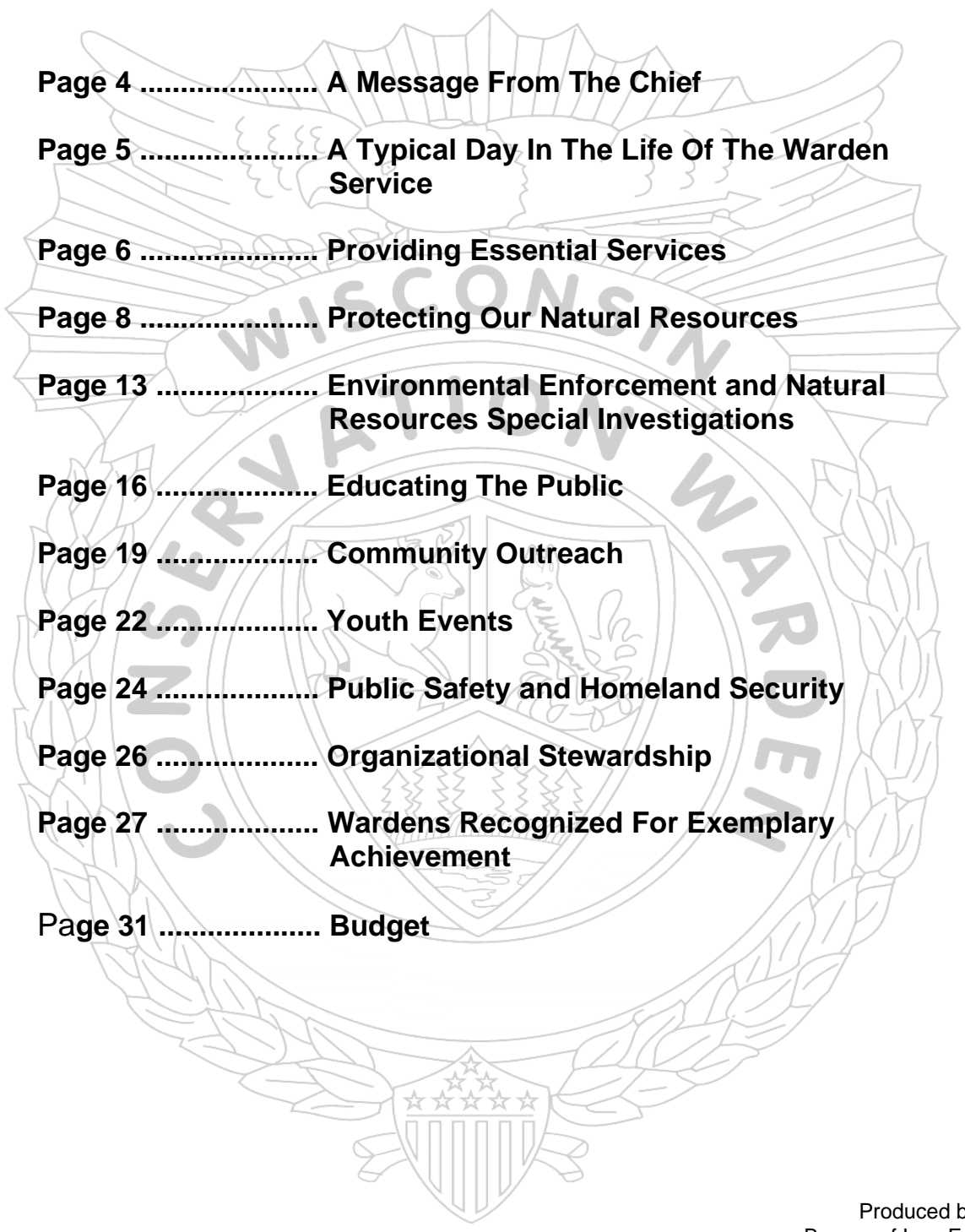
*-Theodore Roosevelt, U.S. President,
Memphis, TN, October 12, 1907*



"It is our task in our time and in our generation, to hand down undiminished to those who come after us, as was handed down to us by those who went before, the natural wealth and beauty which is ours."

-John F. Kennedy

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The background of the table of contents features a large, faint watermark of the Wisconsin Warden Service Seal. The seal is circular with a laurel wreath border. Inside the wreath, the words "WISCONSIN" and "WARDEN SERVICE" are written in a circular path. In the center of the seal is a shield depicting a moose, a fish, and a tree. Below the shield is a banner with the words "WISCONSIN WARDEN SERVICE".

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Produced by the
Bureau of Law Enforcement

Senior Editors/Writers:
John Daniel
Bill Engfer

Designer:
Kristin Zank



A Message from the Chief Warden



The Mission of the Bureau of Law Enforcement is to provide for public safety, and to protect, enhance and promote Wisconsin's natural resources for current and future generations. We accomplish our mission by focusing effort on three major strategies:

Enforcement	Education	Community Wardening
Goal: Achieve compliance with state laws through visible uniformed patrol and competent after-the-fact investigation of violations.	Goal: Through educational efforts, enhance public safety and create a public that is informed, involved and committed to public safety and natural resource protection.	Goal: Work collaboratively with individuals and organizations throughout Wisconsin to protect, promote and enhance our natural resources and protect the citizens of this state.

In 2004, we continued to struggle with staffing levels and operational funding. Between retirements, people leaving for better job security, military call-ups, and injuries, we now have 30 vacancies in the warden service. In 2004, we were only able to fund our patrol operations to a level 18% below 1995 levels.

Despite these challenges, the wardens service remains dedicated to doing the best we can with what we've got. As you read through this report, you'll learn that wardens:

- Arrested poachers known as "thrill killers", individuals who illegally poach wildlife for the thrill of it, in several counties.
- Removed intoxicated recreational vehicle operators from our lakes and trails.
- Protected aquatic habitat through cases involving shoreline destruction.
- Protected public health and safety through enforcement of environmental protection regulations.
- Contributed to Homeland Security by assisting in port security, conducting on-water boat patrols on Lake Michigan during the PGA Tournament, and protection assignments for presidential candidates that traveled rural Wisconsin.
- Trained over 54,500 students in hunter, boating, snowmobile and ATV safety education.
- Worked together with local communities and organizations to solve problems, protect natural resources, and perpetuate the conservation ethic through initiatives such as the Sturgeon Watch program on the Wolf River, youth hunting and fishing initiatives, habitat improvement projects and educational initiatives.

In closing, I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone who helps us do our job each day. You are key to our success. Whether it's by being vigilant and reporting violators, partnering with us in educational and enforcement endeavors, helping us solve problems, creating opportunities, or supporting Department programs through your license and registration dollars, you make a vital contribution to leaving our natural resource legacy intact for future generations. On behalf of all of us in the Law Enforcement Program, please accept a sincere **THANK YOU**.

Randall J. Stark, Chief Warden

Bureau of Law Enforcement

A TYPICAL DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE WARDEN SERVICE

Each year, the men and women of the 232.5 authorized permanent employees of the Wisconsin Conservation Warden Service provide services to over 2.2 million hunters and anglers, 1.25 million boaters, 220,000 snowmobile enthusiasts and 271,000 ATV users. Plus hundreds of thousands of non-users, particularly rural residents, riparian landowners, and others who have experienced user conflicts on over 15,000 lakes, 44,000 miles of rivers and streams, and 34.8 million acres of the State of Wisconsin.

Daily:

- ◆ Conducted 41 investigations of natural resources violations received directly from concerned Wisconsin citizens.
- ◆ Contacted 914 persons face to face to resolve problems, answer questions and ensure compliance.
- ◆ Gave 4 presentations on natural resources protection topics to over 148 persons.
- ◆ Provided direct response or oversight at 3 spills of toxic and hazardous substances.
- ◆ Conducted 1 investigation of hunting, boating, snowmobile or ATV accidents, involving fatalities, injuries or property damage.
- ◆ Gave 5 presentations at Wisconsin certified safety education classes to over 136 students in hunter, boating, snowmobile or ATV safety education.
- ◆ Assisted municipal law enforcement with 2 incidents of crimes occurring in presence of the warden, vehicular accidents, or homeland security related incidents every 3 days.
- ◆ Prepared 3 newspaper articles and appeared on 2 radio and/or television programs.
- ◆ Conducted 121 on the water boat vessel checks and taught boating safety class to 16 boaters.
- ◆ Conducted search and rescue efforts for 3 outdoor users each week.
- ◆ Gave 66 warnings to persons unintentionally violating natural resources and public safety laws.
- ◆ Issued natural resources citations and sought criminal complaints for 36 cases.
- ◆ Made 5 seizures of fish, game or property while investigating natural resources violations.
- ◆ Seven wardens participated in special events (sport shows, expos, fairs) attended by over 1300 persons.
- ◆ Gave 2 presentations before 40 Wisconsin elementary and high school students on natural resources protection topics and respect for the outdoors and other users.
- ◆ Conducted over 2 commercial fishing contacts on the Great Lakes.
- ◆ Gave 3 presentations for 91 students in certified hunter education classes.
- ◆ Are engaged in 7 litigation proceedings on ongoing natural resources and environmental quality cases.
- ◆ Served 1 arrest or search warrant every 3 days.
- ◆ The Duty Officer system handles 2.5 calls per day

The source of these averages and other numerical data in this report is from the warden's daily record keeping system known as the Daily Employee Activity Reporting System (DEARS). Although some activities are seasonal, the averages shown above are the annual total of all the warden's records divided by 365 days.

The number of filled positions as of December 31, 2004 is 209.5, a decrease of 23 from 2003.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

In 2004, in Wisconsin ...

- ◆ Over 5.4 million Wisconsin residents balancing the desire for continued economic growth with the need to protect the environment.
 - ◆ Residents and visitors had an expectation of a clean environment in order to enjoy a wide range of recreational activities and strong economy.
-



- ◆ Over 1.4 million persons engaged in sport fishing had a 2.3 billion dollar impact on the economy, supporting more than 26,000 jobs in Wisconsin and generating \$75 million in state tax revenue to help pay for critical services such as education for our children, and health care for our elderly citizens.
 - ◆ Over 716,200 persons engaged in the diverse hunting activities the state has to offer.
 - ◆ Nationally confronted the introduction of invasive exotic species and animal borne diseases including chronic wasting disease.
-



- ◆ Took to the water for a day of fun in 1.3 million boats. Wisconsin has the fifth largest boat registration in the nation.
 - ◆ Has over 4,000 miles of All Terrain Vehicle trails available to 271,000 Wisconsin registered ATVs.
 - ◆ Operated more than 220,000 registered snowmobiles on Wisconsin's 22,000 miles of groomed trails, making safety an important part of the ride.
 - ◆ Has added 30,000 additional graduates to the over one million persons already certified in the mandatory Wisconsin Hunter Education Program.
 - ◆ 20,277 people took mandatory state certified snowmobile, ATV, and boating safety education programs.
-



- ◆ Residents and visitors relied on law enforcement in maintaining peace and security in 1,922 municipalities throughout the state.

In 2004, The Conservation Warden Service...



- ◆ Investigated 2,807 reports of violations of environmental and habitat protection laws.
- ◆ Responded to over 900 reports of hazardous material releases to the environment
- ◆ Gave 858 warnings and initiated or completed 2,301 environment enforcement actions including notices of violations, administrative orders, enforcement conferences, referrals to the Attorney General's Office, and citations concerning laws protecting environment and habitat.



-
- ◆ Contacted over 313,000 persons in the field engaged in fishing, hunting, and other recreational activities to ensure compliance and understanding with the regulations and resource issues.
 - ◆ Investigated 8,780 reports of natural resources violations provided to them by concerned citizens.
 - ◆ In the course of field contacts, issued 23,213 warnings and took enforcement action on 11,750 violations of natural resources and safety regulations.
 - ◆ Investigated 527 complaints regarding CWD and conducted fence inspection associated with controlling chronic wasting disease.



-
- ◆ Trained 54,502 students in 1,976 class presentations in hunter education, snowmobile, boating and ATV safety education to ensure safety in the field, respect for others and to reduce a student's chance of involvement in accidents.
 - ◆ Presented information on natural resources laws and current issues to more than 53,700 people attending 1,466 school classes and meetings of sports and service clubs.
 - ◆ Conducted more than 44,000 watercraft inspections and contacted more than 33,000 snowmobile and ATV operators to ensure compliance with safety laws and reduce user conflicts.

-
- ◆ Assisted municipal law enforcement agencies with 265 incidents of crimes occurring in the presence of the warden, vehicular accidents or homeland security related incidents.
 - ◆ Rescued 96 boaters in distress and responded to 66 other calls for assistance.
 - ◆ Investigated 416 accidents involving hunters, snowmobilers, boaters or ATV enthusiasts.
 - ◆ Provided training and \$1.4 million to 110 municipalities for boat patrols on 200 waterways.
 - ◆ Provided training and \$600,000 to municipalities for 30 ATV and 44 Snowmobile enforcement patrols.
 - ◆ Partnered with local, state and federal law enforcement on presidential campaign security, 8 Port Security Teams, and Homeland Security.

PROTECTING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Wisconsin depends on a clean environment for public health, a strong economy and the quality of life we've come to expect. The protection of the environment and the public continues to be an important mission and priority for the Bureau of Law Enforcement.

"Protect Wisconsin's natural resources and enhance public safety through fair, impartial and innovative enforcement of natural resource, environmental protection, and public safety laws, placing an emphasis on commercialization of resources, captive wildlife, habitat protection, exotics, disease control, and public health issues."

The State of Wisconsin is blessed with a clean environment and an abundance of fish and wildlife for its citizens to enjoy. The warden service is the only agency with the skills, knowledge, law enforcement authority and assets to protect these valuable fish and wildlife resources over the vast area of the state. Conservation Wardens are dedicated to doing the best they can in protecting our fish and wildlife resources. Wardens do a wide variety of enforcement to promote fair chase and help sustain fish and wildlife populations in accordance with the scientific management plans of the fisheries and wildlife management programs.

The wide variety of enforcement actions taken by the Wisconsin Warden service is illustrated below:

◆ **License Compliance**

License compliance is an important concern of Wisconsin Sportsmen. Conservation Wardens take their role in ensuring license compliance seriously. Wardens increase license compliance through various strategies. These include educating and informing the public, warden presence and visibility in the field, and contacting more than 313,000 people annually. Our past experience has shown a 97% to 99% compliance rate – depending on fishing or hunting activity. This compliance rate drops off without warden presence. There is a direct correlation between wardens checking users in the field and license compliance. The revenue from licenses along with federal funds based on license sales support fish and wildlife management and protection in Wisconsin. Revenue from the purchase of licenses is critical to the success of conservation programs in Wisconsin.

◆ **Unlicensed Dealers**

Unlicensed bait dealers can negatively effect the natural resources

Warden Jesse Ashton acting on a compliant interviewed a subject that had been selling bait without a license for years. Ashton seized the subjects untagged box traps and the subject was prosecuted. Due to this investigation the game fish are protected from over harvest and licensed dealers continue to operate without unfair competition from illegal dealers.

◆ **Commercial Fishing**

Protecting the commercial fish resource is essential to the long-term viability of these resources.

In a partnership with the Coast Guard, Wardens have been riding aboard USCG helicopters to monitor commercial fishers, sport fishers and boating activity from the air. Information is then relayed via radio to units on the ground/water. This cost-effective joint (DNR/USCG) patrols are conducted incidental to USCG training and homeland security flights at no cost to the DNR law enforcement program. These flights have allowed the wardens to locate commercial fisherman who fish in closed areas. This is just one of the many examples of how the wardens are leveraging resources with other agencies to get the job done.



♦ **Unlicensed Charter Boats**

Wardens along Lake Michigan routinely receive complaints from the public relating to unlicensed charter boats. Wardens Ryan Volenberg and Steve Daye coordinated an investigation which resulted in the apprehension and successful prosecution of 8 individuals for "operating as unlicensed sport trollers". As a result of their investigation, one of these individuals who was identified as a repeat offender was ordered to pay forfeitures totaling \$25,308 and loss of all licenses for 3 years. Wardens take complaints from the public very seriously.

♦ **Illegal Sturgeon Enforcement**

The lake sturgeon provides Wisconsin anglers with one of their most unique fishing opportunities and wardens across the state give sturgeon enforcement a high priority. The fines are higher for those who take sturgeon out of season or possess them illegally based on public demand through the state legislature.

In his 6th sturgeon case of the 2004 season, Warden Mike Kitt observed a sturgeon still untagged after 1 hour and 20 minutes on the stringer. The suspect had already caught and released three other smaller fish and was attempting to catch another one. The sorting of fish can have serious effects on the survival rate of the fish.



♦ **Sturgeon spearing enforcement on Lake Winnebago**

Conservation Wardens work the Sturgeon Spearing Season in an effort to provide visual deterrent. Citations were issued to those spearers who unlawfully took this valuable resource, for spearing after hours and for loaning and borrowing licenses and tags. Once again, these cases were based on citizen complaints. This stresses the importance of citizen involvement with resource protection.

♦ **Illegal Shining of Wild Animals**

Public complaints lead Warden Rick Reed to a group of raccoon hunters. Together with Warden Dale Hochhausen, the wardens located the suspects. Surveillance measures documented illegal shining of animals, loaded guns in vehicles, and hunting without licenses. The wardens ended up seizing 73 raccoons, along with the firearm and the spotlights. The violators were fined approximately \$1,200, equipment was confiscated and their hunting and fishing privileges were revoked for 3 years.



♦ **Trapping Enforcement**

Conservation Warden Dave Swanson observed snowmobile tracks leading off of the groomed trail and across a grassy swamp. After following snowmobile tracks and foot tracks, Warden Swanson observed two illegal snares that were set for otter. Farther up the trail another set of foot tracks lead to another illegal snare and trap. Through his investigation Swanson was able to track the illegal trapper back to his home.

♦ **Illegal Fur Buying**

Conservation Wardens Jeremy Peery and Scott Bove seized about 550 raccoon pelts, 45 muskrat pelts, 2 mink pelts, and 1 coyote pelt in a case that brought federal charges to a trapper and fur buyer. The fur buyer is charged with violations of the federal Lacey Act.



♦ **Illegal Bear Hunting**

Wardens Mark DiSalvo, Lance Burns, and Warden Supervisor Mike Vogelsang worked on a complaint of illegal hunting from a cabin. The suspect had illegal bear bait set out near the cabin. Warden's gathered information and evidence that a bear at been killed at the location. Interviews of suspect and accomplice showed the suspect killed the bear, drove back to his residence and picked up his accomplice. A tag was placed on the bear and it was registered. While bear hunting is enjoyed by many law abiding hunters in Wisconsin there are a few who violate the fair chase laws in order to harvest a bear.



◆ **Public Property Protection**

Wisconsin's scenic resources that are held open for the entire public to enjoy can be degraded by those who want to use this natural beauty for their profit.

Mike Sealander, while working on a complaint of illegal bear hunting, responded to another complaint in progress of a driftwood collector on one of the flowages. The individual collected the driftwood from the bed of the flowages and was selling at various art and craft outlets. Collecting driftwood, which is not free floating, without permission of the owner of the flowage bed is a violation of state law.

◆ **CWD Efforts:**

Conservation Wardens continued to do their part in assisting in the fight against Chronic Wasting Disease. Wardens from throughout Southeast Region were trained as marksmen. Wardens worked in a variety of conditions harvesting deer for testing to determine the extent that the disease prevails in the deer herd. This specialized training is designed to address safety concerns and eliminate wounding loss.



◆ **Gun Deer Season**

Wardens contact approximately 60,000 deer hunters during the gun deer season. These contacts serve the hunter by answering their questions, ensuring compliance with the regulations, and communicating tips on violators.

“Thrill Killing”

A stab of light illuminates a field that is known to be frequented by deer. A short time later a muffled rifle shot is heard. Another trophy buck shot for its antlers? No. This is a new breed of violator. They are not out for meat or antlers. They are out for only one reason, the thrill of the kill. Sportsmen are a very proud group of outdoor enthusiasts who believe in fair play and ethical behavior. Unfortunately there are game thieves who will do anything for the thrill of killing. Wisconsin has seen an increase of “thrill killing” of animals in recent years. Unfortunately the following is just a few examples of this appalling behavior. Fortunately, they were apprehended by Wisconsin Conservation Wardens.

◆ **Southeast Wisconsin**

In a recent case, three individuals were sentenced for their participation in thrill killings. According to reports, the defendants were out with a gun and a spotlight 2 or 3 times in the fall. On these nights the two shot at several raccoons, a coyote and at least two deer. One of the deer shot was a 6 point buck. They sawed off the rack of the deer but left the carcass to rot. In the other cases the subjects didn't even look to see if they hit the animals as they were worried about someone seeing them. This behavior not only affected the natural resources, but also posed serious public safety threats. The county where this took place in is not the rural landscape it once was. Houses and even whole subdivisions lie behind the fields where these individuals were shooting. The three defendants plead to charges of shining deer while in possession of a firearm, and were fined \$2,177.00 to \$4,352.00 each and loss of license privileges for three years, plus loss of equipment used in the course of the violation.

◆ **South Central Wisconsin**

In April of 2004 Conservation Warden Casey Krueger along with Warden John Buss received a complaint about two individuals that were driving around the countryside illegally shooting animals from a truck in the early spring. The complainant stated that the two suspects had shot ducks, deer, pheasants, sandhill cranes, and turkeys. The majority of the animals were shot from the inside of the truck. Some of the deer were shined and shot at night. Most of the game was left in the field to rot by the thrill-seeking poachers. The end result was well over \$14,000 in penalties levied against the two men and loss of hunting and fishing privileges for 3 years. The firearms were ordered to be destroyed by the court. The two men were also sentenced to jail for 20 days and put on probation for 3 years. The men were also sentenced to 500 hours of community service.

◆ **Southwestern Wisconsin**

During a two-month investigation, Wardens Jeff King and Martin Stone learned that six teens were involved in dozens of night shooting incidents in three counties. Their investigation revealed that over 30 deer were shot at, three of which were killed and collected by the teens. The wardens also learned that 30 raccoons were shot and at least one protected hawk. One of the 2 defendants was fined \$9,800.00, received 30 days in jail, three years of probation, lost all hunting and fishing privileges for six years, and had his vehicle confiscated by the court. The other defendant was fined \$9,500.00, jailed for 30 days, placed on two years probation, and lost all hunting and fishing privileges for six years. The investigation was launched after the Sheriff's Department received a call from a witness who had observed a car stopped on a rural road and an occupant of the vehicle shooting a deer.

◆ **Southwestern Wisconsin**

Wardens Joe Frost and Dave Youngquist cited four individuals involved in the shining and shooting of deer. The group shot at over a hundred deer from their vehicle at night with rifles and shotguns while using a spotlight. They left every deer to rot. In one instance they shot toward a house they knew was there! Penalties totaled more than \$34,000.00 for the four thrill killers.

Environmental Enforcement and Natural Resources Special Investigations

In 2004, Law Enforcement merged the Office of Environmental Enforcement with the Special Investigations Section to form the Enforcement, Investigations & Emergency Management Section. The intent of this merger was to consolidate management responsibilities in response to budget cuts and also to enhance our ability to address complex natural resources and environmental protection violations more effectively and efficiently.

♦ **Environmental Enforcement**

The Department's Environmental Enforcement program consists of the following personnel:

- Fifteen Environmental Enforcement Specialists work with the Department's Environmental Protection staff to resolve violations of state environmental protection laws. In 2004, the Environmental Enforcement Specialists issued 2 Notices of Violation per day, held 337 Enforcement Consultations, and developed cases that resulted in 101 referrals to the Wisconsin Department of Justice.
- Seven Environmental Wardens (EW) work with the Department's Environmental Protection staff, Conservation Wardens, and the public to investigate criminal and complex civil violations of state environmental protection laws for potential prosecution by the Department of Justice. The Environmental Wardens opened 51 environmental investigations in 2004 that resulted in an additional 16 referrals to the Wisconsin Department of Justice and 1 to the United States Department of Justice. Other duties include assisting Conservation Wardens throughout the state with violations of septic, storm water, water pollution, forestry, and fish and game. The EWs also worked general fish, game, boating, and snowmobile enforcement in addition to their environmental investigative duties.

♦ **Emergency Response.**

The Emergency Management Officer (EMO) is responsible for managing the Duty Officer System, which provides a 24 hour, 7 day per week contact person that enables the Department to mobilize the staff and/or equipment necessary to respond to hazardous substance discharges, fires, floods, tornadoes, or other emergency situations. Duty Officers consist of Central Office Law Enforcement staff. The EMO works closely with other agencies to ensure efficient and effective response by state agencies. Homeland Security responsibilities are also a significant part of this position and the EMO helps to coordinate internal and external security measures related to public infrastructure such as drinking water and wastewater treatment systems. In 2004, the Duty Officer system handled 2.5 calls per day dealing with spills and other emergencies.

Some Examples of the Events That Cause Environmental Damage

♦ **"Major Environmental Damage Averted"**

Warden Jeff King responded to a manure spill that was headed toward a creek in Green County. DNR and Land Conservation Staff were able to contain the majority of the manure prior to it entering the stream, thereby minimizing environmental damage.

♦ **Storm Water Discharge**

Wardens routinely investigate construction sites left without any erosion control. These sites can result in significant amounts of sediment discharging into waterways. Wardens get involved in these types of investigation, as the amount of damage that can be done to a fishery is potentially much greater than the harm that over-bagging on fish can have on the resource.



◆ **“35,000 Gallons of Liquid Manure Kill Fish”**

While traditional fish and game enforcement activities in protecting Wisconsin’s natural resources continues to be a major part of a warden’s work, the enforcement of environmental laws also plays a major role in natural resource protection. Warden Joe Frost, Fisheries Biologist Gene Van Dyck, Fisheries Technician Chad Loomis and Animal Waste Specialist Mike Vollrath investigated a fish kill on the Pecatonica River in Iowa County. About 7 miles of the river was affected when a pump at a manure slurry pit was left unattended. About 35,000 gallons of liquid manure entered the river.

◆ **Fish & Wildlife Investigators**

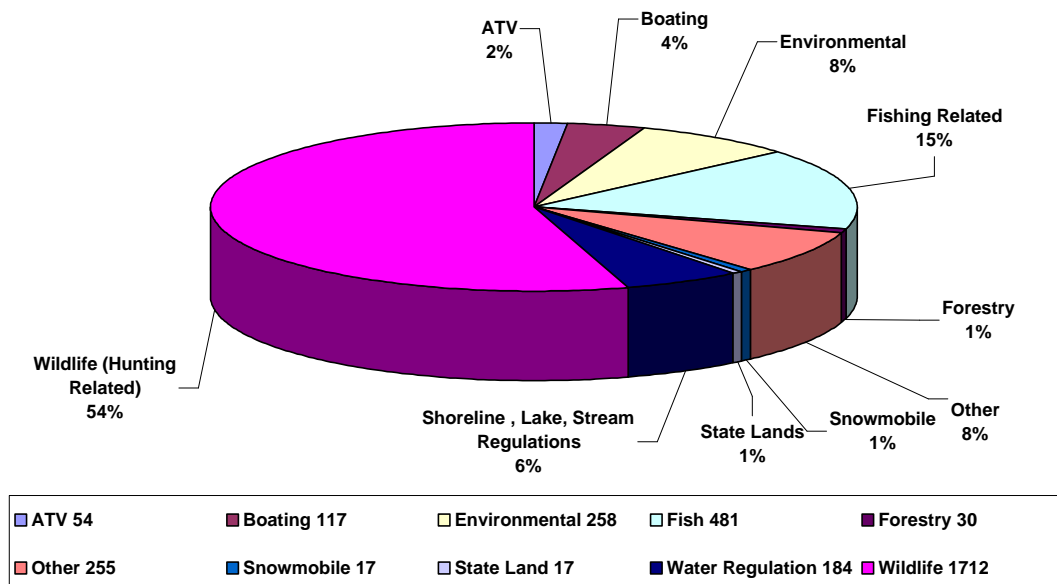
At this time, the Department has Conservation Wardens who specialize in the aspects of natural resources law that regulate commercial interests in natural resources such as commercial fishing, guiding, taxidermy, captive wildlife, wholesale fish dealers, bait and fur dealers. These Wardens are tasked with conducting investigations into regulated and commercial resource users. In addition, these Wardens investigate habitual or particularly egregious violations of natural resource laws and pursue license and registration violations, such as fraudulent license purchases.

Natural Resources Hotline

◆ **Department of Natural Resources Violation Hotline**

The department operates a hotline that allows citizens to confidentially report suspected fish and wildlife, recreational and environmental violations through a toll free number. Dispatchers relay the information to the wardens. The public plays an extremely important role in protecting public health, fish and wildlife populations and the ecosystems that we all depend on. Without their continued participation wardens could not be as effective as they are.

2004 Natural Resources Hotline Complaints by Category
Showing Number and Percentage



An Example of a Hotline Case



◆ Deer Poaching

Wardens Mark Brann and William Yearman made a deer poaching case reported through the Hotline on the Monday before gun season. Based on the complaints Warden Brann located deer parts by an illegal corn bait. Nearby were discarded torsos, heads and legs from three deer. The investigation revealed the suspect shot three deer since mid October with a rifle and cut them up at his home.

Over-Bagging Cases

Wisconsin hunters and anglers have asked the Wisconsin legislature and the Department of Natural Resources to create bag limits on different species to protect them from over harvest. In 2004, Wardens made 381 overbagging cases. The following are a few examples of what they uncovered through tips from the public, investigations, and surveillance.

◆ “Overbagging Doesn’t Pay”

Warden Brad Peterson and Supervisor Dave Hausman worked a complaint of two subjects taking more than their legal limits of White Bass on the Mississippi River. When the subjects were contacted they were in possession of 360 White Bass. The daily limit on White bass on the Mississippi River is 25 and 50 in possession. Fines totaled \$3,220 plus loss of fishing equipment and one year revocation.



◆ “Overbagging”

Warden Volenberg arrests 2 individuals who were over their daily bag and more than two times over their limit. Warden Ryan Volenberg is pictured with the salmon that the individuals had over on their daily bag.

◆ Team Work Pays Off

A joint team effort from wardens Wade Romberg, Ed McCann, Mike Disher, Amie Egstad, and Mark Shepherd with walleye enforcement on the Lake Winnebago System resulted in 52 citations being issued for walleye and sauger overbag violations on the Lake Winnebago System from April 1 to July 1, 2004. Complying with the bag limits is essential in assuming that over harvest does not occur.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

"Offers the needed safety education training programs in ways that accommodate today's competing time demands through greater use of technology and diverse delivery methods and providing the enforcement efforts to reduce recreational conflicts and accidents."

Wisconsin's outdoor enthusiasts have a wide variety of activities to enjoy. Being safe and aware of the responsibilities relating to these activities are goals of the four safety education programs that are administered by Wisconsin wardens. In addition to our safety education courses, conservation wardens engage in educational efforts in a variety of other forums. These include speaking at schools, sports clubs, service clubs, and attendance at special events such as sport shows, fairs, and sporting expos.

In 2004, Wardens:

- Gave 646 presentations to 14,635 of Wisconsin's elementary and high school students to educate them on natural resource protection issues.
- Contacted 39,134 members of sports and conservation clubs through 820 presentations providing information and updating the members on natural resources regulations.
- Participated in Wisconsin special events (fairs, expos, sport shows) through 2,194 man-days of effort answering questions, and serving as a sounding board for Department issues to 489,813 persons in attendance.
- Provided 477 radio and 189 television shows to inform listeners about a variety of natural resources issues and to answer questions.
- Trained over 54,500 students in hunter education, boat, snowmobile, ATV safety in 2,000 courses staffed by 8,316 volunteer instructors.
- Prepared or collaborated in 1,194 newspaper articles.

♦ **One-Stop Shopping Offered by Wardens**

Wardens in the West Central Region worked a number of events, including County Fairs and Farm Technology Days. In most cases, wardens partnered with different agencies and organizations to offer "one-stop shopping" for those individuals interested in learning more about conservation and environmental issues. This effort has made it easier for the public to get their questions answered about natural resources and environmental issues.



- ◆ Wardens frequently use technology to aid with training, such as this LaserShot simulator. This tool easily gives students hands-on experience handling firearms in areas where space is limited and the use of firearms is restricted. These students treat the laser guns as if they were real firearms and practice muzzle control and target isolation.



◆ **Warden & Staff Special Events**

Wardens often combine their effort with groups like the Conservation Congress in promoting Wisconsin's Outdoor Heritage through events like the Wisconsin State Fair and the Duck's Unlimited Great Outdoor's Festival.

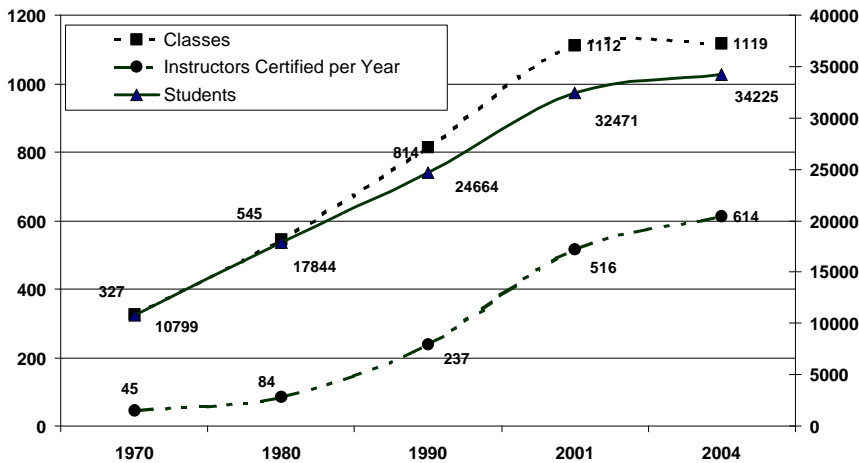
- ◆ **Hmong Radio Show** - Warden Darren Kuhn (Green Bay) participated in several radio shows on the weekly Hmong radio program on Wisconsin Public Radio. For example, just prior to the hunting seasons, Warden Kuhn discussed, with the aid of an interpreter, small game license requirements, bag limits, group hunting, state lands and their closed areas, firearms transportation, blaze orange requirements during gun deer seasons, earn a buck, being sure of the target and baiting. From a previous Hmong radio show Warden Kuhn was advised that this program reached between 15,000 - 20,000 Hmong from Green Bay to Oshkosh. Warden Kuhn called upon the experienced Wisconsin Hmong hunters to help the new arrival Hmong hunters with understanding and getting familiar with the hunting rules and regulations which will be new to them.
- ◆ Hunter Education and the State Crime Lab are working together through an agreement to provide firearm action sets to hunter education. Being able to use the confiscated firearms for training has saved valuable funds. From an educational standpoint this adds greatly to the "hands-on" experiences for the students.

Recreational Safety Programs

In addition to the traditional classroom style courses taught by volunteer instructors, wardens have also begun to partner with various health agencies to give out more information on recreational vehicle safety. Below, wardens participated in a Children's Safety Fair sponsored by a local hospital, and gave out information and tips on safety and equipment on ATV's and boats.



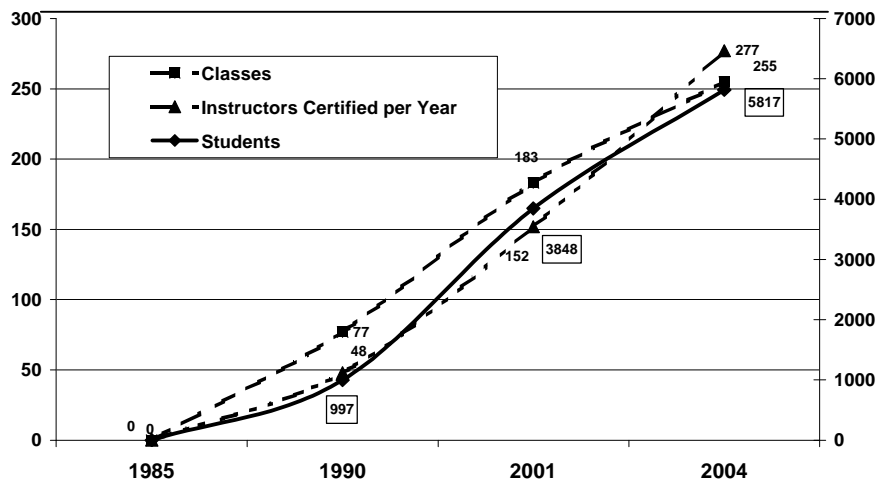
Hunter Education



- ◆ Since the program's inception in 1967, Wisconsin's award winning Hunter Education Program continues to grow.
- ◆ In 2004, the Hunter Safety program (Firearm and Bow) provided education and certification for over 34,000 students
- ◆ This was accomplished with just over 1,100 individual classes and 4,992 volunteer instructors

ATV Education

- ◆ ATV program began in 1985 and has continued to grow.
- ◆ In 2004 the ATV Education program provides education and certification for more than 5,800 students
- ◆ This is accomplished with 1,150 instructors teaching 255 classes



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

"Continue creating alliances and increase the public's overall knowledge, respect, and appreciation of our natural resources through involvement, and a sense of personal ownership."

Working with local communities is one of the corner stones to protecting, enhancing and promoting our natural resources. Effective community wardening has a positive impact by reducing violations, instilling a local stewardship ethic, and enhancing the quality of life in the community. It accomplishes these things by combining the efforts and resources of the wardens, local government, and community members toward a common goal at the local level. The key to Department of Natural Resources community wardening is establishing collaborative relationships between our wardens and the communities they serve. It begins with stationing wardens in local communities around the state and developing relationships. Developing strong, self-sufficient communities is an essential step in creating an atmosphere in which violations will not be accepted and stewardship of the resources is shared by all. For DNR law enforcement, it plays a primary role in determining the way government services are provided at the community level.

Wardens frequently work with conservation clubs on projects aimed at getting people involved in the outdoors. Whether it is a youth hunt, a river cleanup, or a fishing clinic, the whole goal is to instill a conservation ethic in our citizens so that we appreciate and protect the resources that our state has available to everyone.

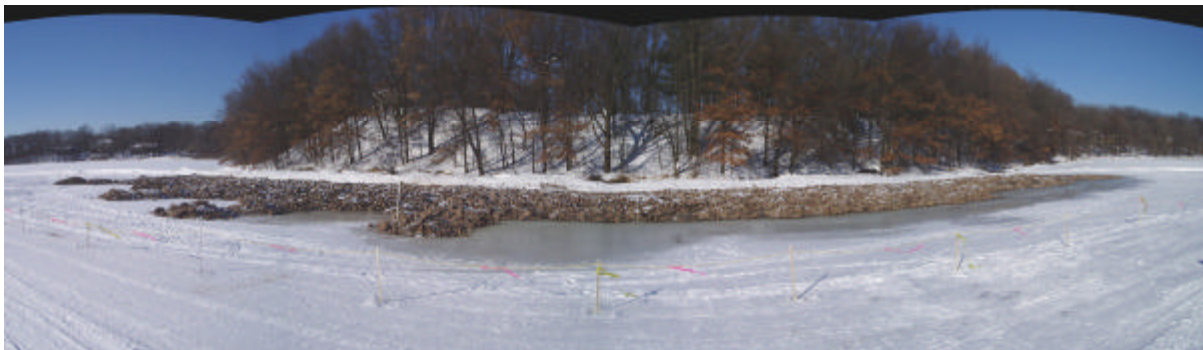
The following are a few of the hundreds of projects wardens were engaged in during 2004.

◆ **Amish Community Wardening**

Every year Conservation Wardens David Horzewski and John Buss sponsor a picnic with the Amish Community in Sauk County. The picnic has many fun events for the Amish to participate in and opportunities to meet the warden and learn about our resources. Both Warden Buss and Warden Horzewski realized years ago that it was very difficult to get the word out on Department regulations to the Amish community because of the Amish's limited exposure to the media. In response to this problem the wardens have sponsored a picnic in the Amish community for the last several years. During the event the wardens assist with trap shooting and archery shooting. The wardens then get the opportunity to speak with the Amish about new regulations for the fall hunting season. They also provide the community with a question and answer session. Through these contacts the wardens have been able to enhance the relationship that the Department has with the Amish. They have also been able to recruit new Amish hunter education instructors through these contacts.

◆ **Warden Works With Local Fishing Organization to Improve Habitat**

Conservation Warden Russ Fell and the Indianhead Chapter of Walleyes for Tomorrow completed its first construction project of a walleye spawning reef on the north end of Lake Montanis in Rice Lake. Rock for the project was donated by Rice Lake resident and hauled to the site in 3 cubic yard loads. Approximately 700 cubic yards of fieldstone were placed. The thickness varies from 8" close to shore to 2' at the deep end, which is 100' from shore in some places. Funding for the project came from 2 banquets that the chapter held with additional funds from the parent organization in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin along with the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service's Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program. The design work was done by the Barron County Soil & Water Conservation Department.



◆ **Town Hall Citizen's Academy**

The Wautoma Service Center had attempted to host a Citizen's Academy for several years. Recognizing the benefits of having the public meet DNR staff and become more knowledgeable of the DNR's overall responsibilities and projects, Warden Dave Algrem began working on a "Town Hall" style academy format. Dave worked with other functions to develop the program and presentations. Dave emceed two evenings of the Town Hall meetings that were both very well attended. This format has proved very valuable especially for the more rural areas of the state and served as an excellent avenue to educate the public, emphasize interaction between the DNR and the public and to gather response and feedback.

◆ **Warden And Husband Spear Head A Clean Up Day On Wildlife Area**

Warden Jill Schartner and her husband Tom spent a Saturday with the Albany High School Sophomore Class of 2006, picking up 26 bags of garbage and 13 tires from the Albany Wildlife Area/Public Hunting Grounds and parking lots. All commented how quick the day went and how much better the area looked compared to last year at which time they collected 41 bags of garbage and 23 tires. Schartner provided lemonade and pizza. The students made sure Schartner knew this was a project they would like to continue next year.

◆ **UWSP Law Enforcement Student Association Works with River Watch Program -**

Warden Ryan Volenberg has set up and implemented a volunteer "River Watch" program through UW Stevens Point Student Law Enforcement Association, (SLEA), to assist in the detection and apprehension of law violators on the tributary waters of Lake Michigan. Students from SLEA have been watching assigned sections of water and then forward information to conservation wardens in the area. A number of great cases have been made as a direct result of this program, and the resources are better protected.

◆ **Warden Facilitates Clean Up of the Lower Wisconsin River**

Warden Dave Youngquist gave all of canoe liveries in his area on the Lower Wisconsin State River trash bags for the liveries to give to their clients so that trash is picked up from the sandbars. This program has reduced litter problems on sandbars.

◆ **First Annual Lake Clean-Up**

Warden Rick DeWitte was involved in coordinating the first annual O'Leary Lake trash and litter clean up with Lancaster boy and Cub Scout troops. Arrangements were made with the scout groups to clean up the area. DeWitte had contacted the local owner of the fishing barge about the clean-up and made arrangements for a free lunch for all participants. The scouts also spent the afternoon fishing in O'Leary Lake and the Mississippi River. Many of the scouts and parents caught fish, especially small mouth bass. The most interesting catch of the day was a working bicycle horn attached to a metal ring. You just never know what you're going to catch in the Mississippi River! The scouts had commented that they planned on returning in the fall for another clean up.

◆ **Goose Hunt for Disabled Hunters**

Warden Dale Hochhausen helped organize and conduct a goose hunt for disabled hunters in his area. Hochhausen identified willing landowners and coordinated getting the hunters onto the fields. Hochhausen is also working developing a pheasant hunt for disabled hunters. Dale has been working with the group 'Adaptive Sportsmen' to make these great events happen.

◆ **Portable Fish Hatchery**

Warden Dean Gullickson works with two local conservation club, a lake association, and the Bloomer High School Field Conservation Class on a portable fish hatchery that stocked 1.4 million walleye fry stocked in two local lakes in Chippewa County. The high school students build the hatchery and the organizations funded the project. This was a great project with real hands on work in conservation.



◆ **STURGEON CAMP 2004**

Wardens Work Cooperatively With
Other Department Staff and Volunteer
Citizens to Protect Sturgeon

Sturgeon spawning on the Wolf River and other nearby bodies of water has been a tourism attraction for many years. While many people come to the area to observe this phenomenon, there are also those that would take advantage of these fish during this vulnerable time.



Working with local organizations and the public, the Law Enforcement Sturgeon Guard program was developed. This program is staffed with volunteers who spend 12-hour shifts guarding key spawning areas where the sturgeons come to the shoreline along with wardens who are on patrol. This joint effort between Law Enforcement and volunteers has saved thousands of dollars and has protected countless numbers of sturgeon from being poached.



Youth Events

Wardens work with local leaders to introduce the skills and knowledge in order to be responsible and safe hunters and anglers. Our youth are the future of hunting and fishing.



◆ Youth Provided Opportunity to Fish

Warden Phil Dorn worked with the Cumberland Chapter of Good Ambitious People (GAP) to provide fishing opportunities for area youth. Youth were invited to participate in a fishing event while being mentored by area adults to teach them how to cast poles, bait hooks, identify fish species and most importantly have fun. Each participant was provided a grab bag with fishing related items with larger prizes provided for the largest and most fish. This year the event had 20+ participants despite the poor weather conditions.

◆ Warden and Spouse Work with Local Campground to Provide Fishing Clinic

Warden Jill Schartner and her husband Tom held a Kids Fishing Workshop in Green County, with help from the Crazy Horse Campground Owners. The event was a big hit, with more than 60 persons attending. The kids were introduced to fishing, given basic fishing skills and knowledge, from how to tie a hook on, to how to identify your fish. Many parents and grandparents approached Schartner and her husband, requesting that they be taught how to tie a hook on to their fishing line, so they could teach their kids and grandkids.

◆ Youth turkey Hunts –

Many conservation wardens throughout Wisconsin worked together with Wildlife Staff and local conservation organizations to host youth turkey hunting events. Warden John Christian in Dodge County and local wildlife managers organized this hunt which was very successful for these young hunters. As one young hunter said after the hunt, "I was nervous, my heart was pounding and I was sweating," the young hunter said with a grin a few hours later, relaxing over lunch. "I'd never been so close to one before and I wanted to make sure I got one right." Which he did, taking a 21-pound tom with an 8-inch beard during the Saturday hunt.



◆ **Learn to Hunt Program**

Warden Rick Reed coordinated the first Walworth County Learn to Hunt Pheasant program, which took place in September. The Delavan Sportsmen's Club hosted the event; Pheasants Forever supplied the insurance, a free hat, and a free 1-year membership to the participants. Members from the Turtle Creek Sportsmen's Club brought dogs and volunteered as mentors. In addition to the 40 pheasants donated from the state, a club member donated an additional 50 birds for the event. Participants were allowed to warm up by shooting clay pigeons at the club. Warden Reed and other mentors tried to show the participants how to field dress a pheasant, but nobody would part with their "trophy".



◆ **Rusk County Youth Turkey Hunt and Outdoor Field Day**

Promoting the outdoors and Rusk County's hunting heritage are the goals of Safe Hunters of Tomorrow, an educational group of the newly founded R.C. Gobblers chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. According to Conservation Warden Jeremy Peery, SHOT was started by a small group of dedicated sportsmen and women in order to preserve and protect the future of hunting. "The idea started after the recent overwhelming success of the youth turkey hunt. The response was fantastic and we determined that more educational events would be beneficial for our youth." With this in mind, the group conducted an event known as the Rusk County Youth Outdoor Field Day. With Conservation Warden Jeremy Peery coordinating the day, 25 kids that had graduated from the Hunter Education Program in Rusk County this year, enjoyed a fun day.



Public Safety and Homeland Security

Wisconsin wardens have assumed their responsibility in Homeland Security and Public Safety. In today's vulnerable world with increased security needs due to terrorist threats and natural disasters that inflict harm on Wisconsin's citizens, the economy, and the environment, the need for Wisconsin's warden service to work hand in hand with other agencies is greater than ever. Working in concert with various local, state, and federal agencies, wardens provide, directly or indirectly, assistance to enhance and ensure the protection of life, health, and property, through planning, training, and emergency response preparedness.

A few examples of public safety and life saving efforts:

◆ **Presidential Candidate Security**

Wardens were extensively involved in a variety of work demands in the area of presidential campaign security due to their expertise, training and equipment. Wardens provided security details in cooperation with numerous different agencies on at least 12 different occasions due to the presidential campaign, mainly providing security on the water and around bridges. These details involved all



Wardens, Police and Sheriff Deputies working on Presidential Candidate Security on the Mississippi River.

◆ **PGA Security**

In August of 2004 the Professional Golf Association (PGA) Tournament came to Wisconsin. The tournament was located on the shore of Lake Michigan. The open shoreline along Lake Michigan combined with the fact that dignitaries from around the world attend this event required enhanced security. Conservation wardens were involved in the planning efforts prior to the actual event. During the course of the tournament the United States Coast Guard established a security zone on Lake Michigan adjacent to the golf course. Over 30 conservation wardens and 5 Lake Michigan patrol boats worked in partnership with the US Coast Guard in enforcing the security zone throughout the course of the tournament.



"On behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard and Station Sheboygan, I would like to say "Thank you" to all the men and women of the WI DNR that helped with the PGA Championship security zone at Whistling Straits in August. The operation was rated as a resounding success with no major incidents or disturbances. Your people were an integral part of that success and did a fine job".

Very respectfully,

*BMC Micheal A. Snyder
Officer in Charge
Station Sheboygan, WI*



◆ **Grand Excursion**

Wardens provided on-the-water security for a re-enactment of the Grand Excursion up the Mississippi River while steam and paddleboats traversed the Wisconsin portion of the Mississippi River.



◆ **Two Boaters Sink Their Paddle Boat**

Warden Mike Cross and Kevin Mickelberg located two boaters on Lake Mendota whose paddleboat sank during the Rhythm and Booms display. The wardens got the two into their boat upon locating them. Luckily, the two were wearing PFDs and were carrying a flashlight and a cell phone when they entered the water. Without this prior planning they may not have been rescued.

◆ **Distress Call Leads To Rescue**

While working wardens Darren Kuhn and Ben Trembl overheard a boat in distress call over the marine radio. Wardens Kuhn and Trembl were only several miles from the boat that was reportedly smoking due to a possible fire. The wardens were first to arrive at the disabled boat. Smoke was noticeably coming from below the deck. Wardens Kuhn and Trembl evacuated four adults and two infants from the boat and got them clear while the Coast Guard dealt with the fire on the slowly sinking boat. The passengers were transported to the Coast Guard Station and the Coast Guard pumped out the boat and towed it to shore.

◆ **Wisconsin and Michigan Wardens Team Up for Boater Rescue**

On July 4th, 2004 Wisconsin Warden Mike Kitt and Michigan Warden Terry Short were on patrol on the Menominee River on the Wisconsin/Michigan border. The wardens observed a canoe overturned in the river downstream from Wardens' location. Wardens quickly approached, but could not observe anyone in the water around the vessel. As they made contact with the canoe two persons appeared from beneath the vessel. The weather was cold, windy, and raining, so subjects were trying to stay warm under the vessel. Wardens helped the subjects into their patrol boat and took them back to their cabin. One boater was hypothermic. Both parties were released at their cabin after first aid treatment for hypothermia.

♦ **Warden Rescues Another Boater**

In another unrelated incident, Warden Mike Kitt was approached by a very distressed husband, whose wife and family friend were overdue on a personal watercraft. Warden Kitt immediately took the husband out on Kitt's patrol boat to look for the missing ladies. The vessel was found broken down approximately 3 miles from shore. Both women were rescued.

♦ **Warden & Rescue Helicopter Team Up to Save 3 Lives**

Upon notification of an overdue boat on the waters of Green Bay, Warden Ben Trembl immediately responded to the area from Green Bay with his 26' Intrepid assisting with the search. The Coast Guard's Eagle III rescue helicopter located three adult males clinging to the bow of a capsized boat. Warden Trembl proceeded to the location of Eagle III and located the individuals who were suffering from hypothermia and exposure. He assisted the three individuals into his patrol boat and took them directly to shore where emergency medical personnel received them for transport to the hospital.

♦ **Milwaukee Police Department and Wardens Train Together**

Wardens' train at a firearm training session with the Milwaukee Police Department boat patrol on Lake Michigan. The US Coast Guard established a safety zone to facilitate this training. Working together and joint training is a necessity in today's law enforcement communities.



Organizational Stewardship

"Create a participatory work environment, which will enable us to fulfill the department mission now and in the future while focusing on employee health, welfare, training, and esprit de corps."

Currently, the Warden Service is going through a turbulent time with many retirements. A number of our experienced wardens have worked for years to pass on their knowledge to new recruit wardens and student interns. Now, many of these wardens are retiring, and taking their valuable information and experience with them. Here, Warden Richard Wallin works with intern Lee Marx, who aspires to be a warden in the future.

By working with people who have an interest in pursuing a career in Natural Resources Law Enforcement at an early age, wardens are molding the future generation of wardens and passing along valuable institutional knowledge.



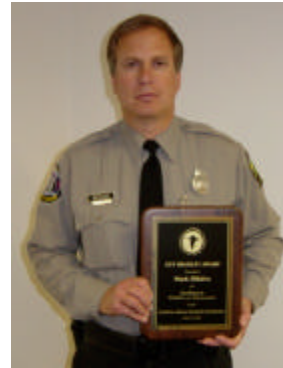
Wardens: The First Line For Resource Protection

Our best resources for completing our mission are the people we employ. The quality of warden service is recognized not only regionally but also across the state and nationally.

Wisconsin wardens recognized for exemplary achievement in 2004:

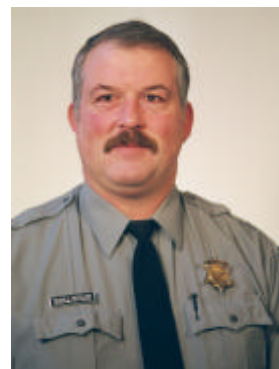
National Honors:

- ◆ Mark Disalvo (Cable, WI)
2004 Guy Bradley Award presented by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. The Guy Bradley Award is presented to those persons whose dedication and service to protecting the nation's natural resources demonstrate outstanding leadership, extended excellence, and a lifetime commitment to the field of wildlife law enforcement and whose actions advance the cause of wildlife conservation.



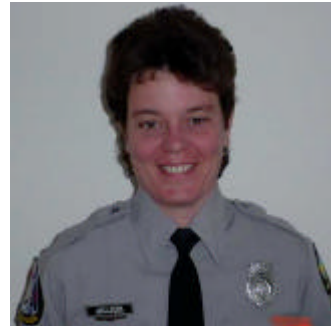
- ◆ John Plenke
(Southeast Region)
International Hunter Education Association's first recipient of the Outstanding Professional in Hunter Education of the Year award.

- ◆ William Engfer (Madison)
Department of Homeland Security
Public Service Commendation for Outstanding Contributions in Support of the United States Coast Guard for his work on National Boating Safety and Homeland Security issues.



State Honors:

- ♦ Judy Nigbor
Haskell Noyes Efficiency Award
The Haskell Noyes Efficiency Award is presented annually to honor a Wisconsin conservation warden who has developed a program that excels in all areas of a conservation warden's responsibilities including enforcement, education, and community wardening. This is equivalent to a "Warden of the Year" award.



- ♦ John Windt
(Iron County)
Wisconsin Wildlife
Federation 2004
Educator Award

- ♦ David Hausman
(St. Croix)
Wisconsin Trapper Association
"Warden of the Year"



- ♦ Amie Egstad (Winnebago County) Merit Award
Wisconsin Association of
Women Police

- ◆ Dave Algrem
(Waushara County)

Wisconsin Bow Hunters
"Warden of the Year"



- ◆ Ronald Cork
Shikar Safari Wildlife
Officer of the Year
Presented annually for
outstanding management
and supervisory
achievement to Wisconsin
warden supervisors, warden
managers and warden
specialist positions.

- ◆ Jeff Knorr
2003-2004
Wisconsin's Waterfowl
Enforcement Officer of the Year
Presented by the Mississippi
Flyway Council and US Fish &
Wildlife Service.



- ◆ Mitch Groenier was chosen as the
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
Conservation Achievement Award
winner for 2004. According to Jack
Nissen, WI Wildlife Federation
District 8 Director, "Mitch was
nominated for his outstanding efforts
in conservation, his significant
contribution to his department and
his leadership role in his community.
It was my honor to nominate Mitch
for this award."

Regional Recognition:

On a regional level many other wardens received recognition from their peers for going the "extra mile" in the performance of the job.

"My name is Matt Johnson and I am a police officer with the Town of Waterford Police Department. I just wanted to let you know that Warden's Joe Jerich and Ted Drumel are a tribute to your fine agency. In my opinion based on my observation of both of them in the field, I truly believe that both represent the qualities and ideas of what you believe in and expect of all your staff. It is truly a blessing having both of them living and working in our area. I could not even count the number of times in which I have called them with natural resource questions. And no matter what time of day or night it was both were always willing and able to answer my questions and usually offered to respond to my location in the field. Knowing both of them, I am sure they will continue to offer their assistance in this same way. I am sure you are aware of both of these wardens fine qualities and professionalism, it is a honor working with both of them and the State of Wisconsin is lucky to have them. All too often the roll of the warden is over looked, I just felt that you should be told about two of your many fine employees."

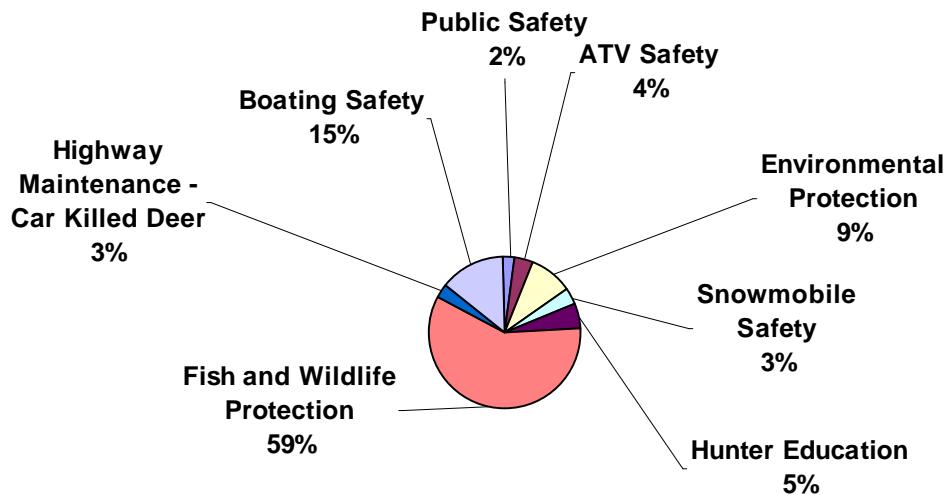
Thank You,

Matt Johnson

Budget in Brief

Over 90% of the total budget is devoted to supporting field operations (including salary, fringe benefits, vehicle operations and associated patrol and travel expenses, and fixed costs including telephone, rents, dispatch services, information technology costs, training, boat, snowmobile and ATV operational costs). The remaining portion is spent on the centralized costs of the Hunter Education program, the snowmobile, ATV and boating safety education programs, the Natural Resources Hotline, recruitment and training of new wardens, and central office administration (chief warden and staff). A warden's time spent on major program activities is proportional to the funding allocated from the budget approved by the Governor and Legislature.

Law Enforcement Operating Budget by Program Area for 2004



Funding Source	
Public Safety	\$584,675.00
ATV Safety	\$1,047,376.00
Environmental Protection	\$2,230,000.00
Snowmobile Safety	\$840,578.00
Hunter Education	\$1,257,181.00
Fish and Wildlife Protection	\$14,138,759.00
Highway Maintenance - Car Killed Deer	\$829,200.00
Boating Safety	\$3,433,929.00
Total	\$24,361,698.00

**If you would like an office
with a view...**



**Have the desire to work
independently with the
latest in technology...**



**And enjoy working with a team of people
dedicated to educating & passing on our outdoor
heritage...**



Become a Wisconsin Conservation Warden

Applicants must have the following criteria:

- Have at least 60 college credits,
- Be at least 21 years of age,
- Possess a valid driver's license at the time of hire and continuing throughout employment,
- Have no unpardoned felony or domestic violence convictions,
- Must have excellent health and free from any physical, emotional and mental condition, which might adversely affect their performance as a law enforcement officer.

If you are interested in becoming a member of a diverse team that proudly wears the badge of a Wisconsin conservation warden, contact the Bureau of Law Enforcement (608-266-2174) or visit us on the Internet at

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/enf/enforcement/recruit>

